ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF June 4, 2001 TO JUNE 8, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	April			Building permits in Alberta declined by 12.8% in April after rising 19.7% in March. Residential permits advanced 4.0% while non-residential permits retreated by 27.9%. Permits declined by 3.4% in Calgary and rose by 8.4% in Edmonton. Year over year, Alberta permits are down 5.9%. Canadian building permits advanced 4.8% in March, led by a 16.6% increase in non-residential permits. For the first four months of this year, both residential and non-residential permits are up 8.4% and 21.2% respectively from the same time last year for Canada. In Alberta they are down 0.1% and 3.3% respectively from last year.
Alberta	439.3	-12.8%	-5.9%	
Canada	3,194.6	4.8%	2.7%	
Year to Date				
Alberta			-1.5%	
Canada			14.0%	
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	May			In May, the help-wanted index fell for six provinces with the largest declines in Ontario (-3.8%), Manitoba (-2.9%), Quebec (-1.9%), and New Brunswick (-1.8%). PEI (-2.8%) and British Columbia (-2.2%). The largest increases were in Nova Scotia (1.2%), Saskatchewan (0.7%), and Alberta (0.5%). The help-wanted index for Canada declined 2.4% from April. Year over year, the index decreased for Canada (-4.1%), while Alberta bucked the trend with a 12.9% increase. The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees.
Alberta	163	0.5%	12.9%	
Canada	171	-2.4%	-4.1%	
Year to date				
Alberta			13.8%	
Canada			1.0%	
United States Unemployment Rate (%)	May			Unemployment in the United States edged down 0.1% to 4.4% in May. The number of payroll employed positions fell by 19,000, which was far less than April's drop of 223,000. The number of unemployed persons now stands at 6.1 million while the number of employed persons is at 135.1 million. Despite falling in May, the U.S. unemployment rate is at its highest level since April 1999. However, 5 years ago the rate was 5.6% (May 1996) and 10 years ago it was 6.9% (May 1991).
	4.4%	-0.1%	0.3%	